
MANTHAN

A General Awareness Weekly

27th September to 3rd October, 2021

PREFACE

Dear Students,

The 'Current Affairs' section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the Week. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfill aspirations.

Happy Reading

Team CL



Career
Launcher

National



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM) via video-conferencing. The pilot project of National Digital Health Mission had been announced by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15th August, 2020.
- Currently, PM-DHM is being implemented in pilot phase in six Union Territories. The nation-wide rollout of PM-DHM coincides with National Health Authority celebrating the third anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya was present on the occasion.
- Based on the foundations laid down in the form of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM) trinity and other digital initiatives of the government, PM-DHM will create a seamless online platform through the provision of a wide-range of data, information and infrastructure services, duly leveraging open, interoperable, standards-based digital systems while ensuring the security, confidentiality and privacy of health-related personal information.
- The Mission will enable access and exchange of longitudinal health records of citizens with their consent. The key components of PM-DHM include a health ID for every citizen that will also work as their health account, to which personal health records can be linked and viewed with the help of a mobile application.
- Healthcare Professionals Registry and Healthcare Facilities Registries will act as a repository of all healthcare providers across both modern and traditional systems of medicine. This will ensure ease of doing business for doctors and hospitals and healthcare service providers.
- PM-DHM Sandbox, created as a part of the Mission, will act as a framework for technology and product testing that will help organizations, including private players, intending to be a part of National Digital Health Ecosystem become a Health Information Provider or Health Information User or efficiently link with building blocks of PM-DHM.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY; also referred to as Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Scheme NHPS) is a national public health insurance fund of the Government of India that aims to provide free access to health insurance coverage for low income earners in the country. Roughly, the bottom 50% of the country qualifies for this scheme. People using the program access their own primary care services from a family doctor. When anyone needs additional care, then PM-JAY provides free secondary health care for those needing specialist treatment and tertiary health care for those requiring hospitalization. The programme is part of the Indian government's National Health Policy and is means-tested. It was launched in September 2018 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. That ministry later established the National Health Authority as an organization to administer the program. It is a centrally sponsored scheme and is jointly funded by both the union government and the states. By offering services to 50 crore (500 million) people it is the world's largest government sponsored healthcare program. It is providing a cover of Rs.5 lakh (US\$7,000) per family per year for medical treatment in empaneled hospitals, both public and private; offering cashless payment and paperless recordkeeping through the hospital or doctor's office; using criteria from the Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 to determine eligibility for benefits. It covers 3 days of pre-hospitalisation and 15 days of post-hospitalisation.

Naga Cucumber from Nagaland gets GI tag

- Nagaland's "sweet cucumber" was recently awarded a geographical identification (GI) tag as an agricultural product under provisions of The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- Naga cucumbers are juicy, soft and sweet and is grown completely organically. They are low in calories but high in potassium and contain a high level of water & can serve as an alternative to consuming sports drinks.
- Cucumber has been traditionally cultivated by Naga farmers in their Jhum fields as a mixed crop mainly during the Kharif season (April –May). It is one of the important component crops in the jhum cultivation.
- This is primarily grown as a cash crop along with paddy and however, now the 'off-season' cucumbers from different districts of the Nagaland especially from Mokokchung district have gained much popularity within the state and now it has become a trend amongst the farmers in the district.
- Some tribes like Konyak are found to grow cucumber all throughout the year by seed to seed method depending upon the soil type. Many different local varieties of cucumber which are soft, juicy and have a sweet taste are grown throughout Nagaland. Naga cucumbers are a kind of fruits that differ in taste, shape and sizes from those available in other.

Sojat Mehndi from Rajasthan gets GI tag

- Sojat Mehndi from Rajasthan has received the geographical indication (GI) tag from the government, a move that helps growers of this product get a premium price as no other producer can use the name to market similar goods.
- "GI tag for Sojat Mehndi is a win-win for farmers, MSME players, artisans and consumers alike if we can leverage it to enhance its exports given its herbal cosmetic and medicinal uses. A GI tag is used for an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicraft and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.
- Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin. Darjeeling Tea, Tirupathi Laddu, Kangra Paintings, Nagpur Orange and Kashmir Pashmina are among the registered GIs in India.

A geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g., a town, region, or country). India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15 September 2003. GIs have been defined under Article 22 (1) of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement as: "Indications which identify a good as originating in the territory of a member, or a region or a locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographic origin." The GI tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorised users (or at least those residing inside the geographic territory) are allowed to use the popular product name. Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India, in 2004–2005. The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years. It can be renewed from time to time for further period of 10 years each.

Himachal Pradesh: World's highest electric vehicle charging station sets up in Lahaul Spiti

- The world's highest electric vehicle charging station was inaugurated in Kaza, Lahaul Spiti. "This is the first station here. If the station gets a good response, more stations would be set up. Pune-based EV charging infra startup goEgoNetwork has installed its electric vehicle charging facility at Kaza in the Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh, making it the world's highest EV charging station.
- Bharat AC and Dual Socket Type 2 chargers, which have been installed by the company in the Western Himalayas, have Make-in-India certification and compliance with ARAI and OCA certification, and will cater to all the EV scooters and cars, goEgoNetwork said. goEgo has collaborated with TVS Motor Company to promote EV infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh, according to the release. The company said its aim, which is in line with the government's vision of becoming a 100 per cent EV nation by 2030, is to encourage EV owners to avail seamless and anxiety-free long-distance travel.

A charging station, also called an EV charger or electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), is a piece of equipment that supplies electrical power for charging plug-in electric vehicles (including hybrids, neighborhood electric vehicles, trucks, buses, and others). Although batteries can only be charged with DC power, most electric vehicles have an onboard AC-to-DC converter that allows them to be plugged into a standard household AC electrical receptacle. Inexpensive low-power public charging stations will also provide AC power, known as “AC charging stations”. Most fully electric car models can accept both AC and DC power. The Government of India has approved amendments in Electric Vehicle (EV) charging guidelines. A phase-wise installation of charging infrastructure: **The first phase (1-3 years): All megacities and connected expressways with a population of 4 million-plus as per census 2011. The second phase (3-5 years): State capitals, UT headquarters. At least one charging station is to be set up in a grid of 3 km X 3 km in the cities. One charging station at every 25 km on both sides of highways/roads. Fast charging station at every 100 kms (one on each side of the highways).**

Candidates for seven Rajya Sabha seats elected

- **Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy Dr. L. Murugan was elected unopposed to the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Madhya Pradesh. Congress nominee Rajani Patil was announced elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha seat from Maharashtra.**
- **The by-poll was necessitated following the untimely demise of Congress MP Rajeev Satav. In Tamil Nadu, Two DMK candidates Dr. Kanimozhi N.V.N.Somu and K.R.N.Rajeshkumar have been declared elected to the Rajya Sabha.**
- **Trinamool Congress candidate Sushmita Dev has been elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from the vacant seat of West Bengal. Union minister and former Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has been elected to the Rajya Sabha from Assam unopposed. In Puducherry, the BJP Candidate for the lone Rajya Sabha Seat Mr. S. Selvaganabathy, was elected unopposed.**

Under Article 80 of the Constitution, the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) is composed of not more than 250 members, of whom 12 are nominated by the President of India from amongst persons who have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service. Nominated members enjoy all powers, privileges and immunities available to an elected member of Parliament. They take part in the proceedings of the House as any other member. They, however, are not entitled to vote in the election of the President of India. But in the election of the Vice-President of India, they have a right to vote. So far, none from them has been inducted into the Council of Ministers.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches Amrit Grand Challenge Program titled “जनCARE”

- **Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the “AmritGrand Challenge Program” titled “जनCARE” to identify 75 Start-Up Innovations in Telemedicine, Digital Health, mHealth with BIG Data, AI, Block Chain and other technologies.**
- **The Minister said the launch of Grand Challenge coincides with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav launched by the Prime Minister. India’s Bio-Economy is on way to achieve 150 billion dollar target to contribute effectively to Prime Minister’s vision of a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024-25.**

The term ‘bioeconomy’ refer to as the production of renewable biological resources and the conservation of these resources and waste streams into value added products, such as food, feed, bio-based products and bioenergy. It serves the goals of resource saving and of reducing environmental pollution on the principles of sustainable development. The concept of Bioeconomy was started by USA, Canada, and European Union (EU) and Australia to boost their economy by using bio-resources.

Assam’s Judima Wine Becomes Northeast India’s First Beverage to Be Awarded GI Tag

- **The traditional Judima wine of the Dimasa tribals of Assam and Nagaland has become the first beverage from northeast India to be awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Dimasa tribals prepare the wine from sticky rice and certain herbs.**
- **The AAU researched its historical background, utility, and scientific aspects, in close coordination with the Youth Association for Development and Empowerment (YADEM) of Assam’s Dima Hasao district.**

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Institute of Petrochemicals Technology, Jaipur

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually dedicated to the nation the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET), located in Rajasthan's Jaipur. He also laid the foundation stone of four new medical colleges in Banswara, Sirohi, Hanumangarh and Dausa districts of Rajasthan.
- These Medical Colleges have been sanctioned under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for "Establishment of new medical colleges attached with district/ referral hospitals". Preference to set up medical colleges is given to underserved, backward and Aspirational Districts. Under three phases of the Scheme, 157 new medical colleges have been approved across the nation.

The oil and gas industry in India dates back to 1889 when the first oil deposits in the country were discovered near the town of Digboi in the state of Assam. The natural gas industry in India began in the 1960s with the discovery of gas fields in Assam and Maharashtra (Bombay high). Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) is an Indian company responsible for maintaining the country's strategic petroleum reserves. ISPRL is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB), which functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Strategic crude oil storages are at three underground locations in Mangalore, Visakhapatnam and Padur (Udupi, Karnataka). All these are located on the east and west coasts of India which are readily accessible to the refineries. Indian refiners maintain 64.5 days of crude storage, so India has overall reserve oil storage of 74 days. In the 2017-18 budget speech by then Indian finance minister Arun Jaitley, it was announced that two more such caverns will be set up Chandikhole, Odisha and Bikaner in Rajasthan as part of the second phase. In June 2018, the Narendra Modi administration approved the construction of a new storage facility in Chandikhole and doubling the capacity at Padur. This would raise India's strategic reserve capacity to 11.83 million tonnes. Apart from this, India is planning to expand more strategic crude oil facilities in second phase at Rajkot in Gujarat. Hardeep Singh Puri is currently serving as the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs in India.

India gets first herbicide-tolerant & non-GM rice varieties

- The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has developed the country's first-ever non-GM (genetically modified) herbicide-tolerant rice varieties that can be directly seeded and significantly save water and labour compared to conventional transplanting.
- The varieties — Pusa Basmati 1979 and Pusa Basmati 1985 — contain a mutated acetolactate synthase (ALS) gene making it possible for farmers to spray Imazethapyr, a broad-spectrum herbicide, to control weeds.
- This dispenses with the need to prepare nurseries where paddy seeds are first raised into young plants, before being uprooted and replanted 25-35 days later in the main field. The two new varieties are scheduled to be officially released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The AcetoLactate Synthase (ALS) gene in rice codes for an enzyme (protein) that synthesises amino acids for crop growth and development. The herbicide sprayed on normal rice plants binds itself to the ALS enzymes, inhibiting their production of amino acids. Imazethapyr, effective against a range of broadleaf, grassy and sedge weeds, can't be used on normal paddy, as the chemical does not distinguish between the crop and the invasive plants. However, the new basmati varieties contain a mutated ALS gene whose DNA sequence has been altered using ethyl methanesulfonate, a chemical mutant. As a result, the ALS enzymes no longer have binding sites for Imazethapyr and amino acid synthesis isn't inhibited. The plants can now "tolerate" application of the herbicide, and hence it kills only the weeds. It is important to note that, as there is no foreign gene involved in the process, the herbicide-tolerance is through mutation breeding. Thus, it is not a Genetically modified organism.

Hardeep Singh Puri launches seventh consecutive edition of Swachh Survekshan

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the seventh consecutive edition of Swachh Survekshan in New Delhi.
- It is the world's largest urban cleanliness survey conducted by Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban. Designed with People First as its driving philosophy, Swachh Survekshan 2022 is curated towards capturing the initiatives of cities for the overall welfare and well-being of frontline sanitation workers.

- The survey, flavoured with the Azaadi@75 spirit, will also give priority to the voices of senior citizens and young adults alike and reinforce their participation towards upholding the cleanliness of urban India. Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0 launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1st of October.
- Swachh Survekshan 2022 has incorporated specific indicators that drive cities to improve working conditions and livelihood opportunities for these frontline soldiers in urban India's sanitation journey. It is symbolic that the seventh edition of the world's largest urban sanitation survey coincides with the commencement of the celebrations of the 75th year of India's independence.

Hardeep Singh Puri is an Indian politician and former civil servant who is currently serving as the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs in India. He is a 1974 batch Indian Foreign Service officer who served as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations from 2009 to 2013. He joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in January 2014, and became a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in November, 2020.¹

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launches DigiSaksham - a digital skills programme to enhance employability of youth

- Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched DigiSaksham - a digital skills programme to enhance the employability of youth by imparting digital skills. This joint initiative with Microsoft India is an extension of the Government's ongoing programmes to support the youth from rural and semi-urban areas.
- Through DigiSaksham initiative, free of cost training in digital skills including basic skills as well as advance computing, will be provided to more than three lakh youths in the first year.
- The Jobseekers can access the training through National Career Service Portal - www.ncs.gov.in. The initiative gives priority to the job-seekers of semi-urban areas belonging to disadvantaged communities, including those who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the DigiSaksham initiative, there will be basically three types of training viz. Digital Skills – Self paced learning, VILT mode training (Virtual Instructor led) and ILT mode training (Instructor led). The ILT training which is in person training would be conducted at the Model Career Centres (MCCs) and National Career Service Centres (NCSC) for SCs/STs across the country. Through this initiative, nearly one crore active jobseekers registered on National Career Service (NCS) Portal will be able to access training in areas like Java Script, Data Visualisation, Advance Excel, Power Bi, HTML, Programming languages, software development fundamentals, Introduction to coding, etc, equipping them with the skills required in a digital economy. DigiSaksham will be implemented in the field by Aga Khan Rural Support Programme India (AKRSP-I).

World's largest Khadi Tricolour unfurled in Ladakh on Gandhi Jayanti

- World's largest Khadi national flag was installed at Leh in Ladakh on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. It was inaugurated by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur. The tricolor, which is 225-feet long and 150-feet wide, weighs around 1,000 kg.
- The flag has been made by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and was displayed by 57 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army. The flag measuring 225 ft by 150 ft and weighing 1000 kgs, is the largest hand woven and hand spun Cotton Khadi Flag ever manufactured in India by the Khadi Village and Industries Commission affiliated Mumbai based Khadi Dyers and Printers.

The National Flag of India is a horizontal rectangular tricolour of India saffron, white and India green; with the Ashoka Chakra, a 24-spoke wheel, in navy blue at its centre. It was adopted in its present form during a meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on 22 July 1947, and it became the official flag of the Dominion of India on 15 August 1947. The flag was subsequently retained as that of the Republic of India. In India, the term "tricolor" almost always refers to the Indian national flag. The flag is based on the Swaraj flag, a flag of the Indian National Congress designed by Pingali Venkayya. By law, the flag is to be made of khadi, a special type of hand-spun cloth or silk, made popular by Mahatma Gandhi. The manufacturing process and specifications for the flag are laid out by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

Kolkata's New Town, first Indian city to commit to UN pledge, strives for efficient green energy

- **Kolkata's New Town, the only Indian city to commit to United Nations' 'energy compact' pledge for battling the climate crisis, has committed to ensure stable modern energy connection to all, use 2% renewable energy by 2030, explore geothermal energy by 2030, ensure 5% energy efficiency and non-motorization of intra-city travel by 50%. Many other Indian cities have lined up to get into the pledge.**
- **New City is a rising deliberate metropolis the place individuals are migrating in and new habitations are being constructed. Power demand is growing with growing inhabitants. New City is a photo voltaic metropolis beneath the photo voltaic metropolis mission of the central authorities with an put in capability of 1,252 KWp solar energy vegetation. One other 500 KWp is beneath set up. 600KWh energy is being generated from one biomass convertor unit making use of segregated moist waste of 5 TPD. Additional, 6,600 KWH energy era via biomass converter is feasible with 55 TPD extra accessible segregated moist waste. Constructing guidelines have been amended to encourage use of photo voltaic vitality in personal buildings for energy era and water heating, town's pledge compact vitality motion revealed.**

Kolkata (previously Calcutta, the official name until 2001) is the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal. Located on the eastern bank of the Hooghly River, the city is approximately 80 kilometres (50 mi) west of the border with Bangladesh. Under the company rule and later under the British Raj, Calcutta served as the capital of British-held territories in India until 1911. At that time, the British assessed its perceived geographical disadvantages, combined with growing nationalism in Bengal, and moved the capital to New Delhi. Calcutta was the centre for the Indian independence movement. It is the third-most populous metropolitan area in India. The Port of Kolkata is India's oldest operating port and its sole major riverine port. Kolkata is regarded as the Cultural Capital of India

Varanasi to be first Indian city to start ropeway service in Public Transportation

- **Varanasi, the PM Modi's parliamentary constituency, will soon become the first Indian city to use ropeway services in public transportation. The world's third and India's first public transport ropeway is proposed to be constructed from Cantt Railway Station (Varanasi Junction) to Church Square (Godauliya) to ease the traffic congestion.**
- **Soon, with the start of this ropeway project worth Rs 424 crore, Kashi Vishwanath Temple and Dashashwamedh Ghat will be easily accessible. Covering an aerial distance of 4.2 km, the ropeway is expected to save time and money for the tourists who have to face traffic jams en route to one of the oldest cities in the world, also known as the Gateway of Eastern India.**

Varanasi also known as Kashi or Benares, or Banaras is a city on the banks of the river Ganges in Uttar Pradesh. A major religious hub in India, it is the holiest of the seven sacred cities in Hinduism and Jainism, and played an important role in the development of Buddhism and Ravidassia. Varanasi lies along National Highway 2, and is served by Varanasi Junction railway station and Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport. The city is represented in the Parliament of India by the current Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, who won the Lok Sabha elections in 2014 and 2019 by a huge margin.

Nation pays homage to Father of the Nation 'Mahatma Gandhi' and former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth Anniversary

- **The Nation pays homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 152nd birth anniversary and 117th birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri on October 2. A series of functions have been organized across the country and by Indian Missions abroad. A Sarva Dharma Prarthana Sabha was organised at his Samadhi – Raj Ghat in the national capital. Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary is also observed as the International Day of non-violence.**
- **Shastri was born on 2 October, 1904 in Mughalsarai district of Uttar Pradesh. He entered politics at a young age as a satyagrahi in the Indian National Movement. On August 15, 1947, he became the Minister of Police and Transport in independent India. Shastri became the Prime Minister of India in 1964 and led the country during the India-Pakistan war in 1965. He coined the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' which resonated with masses and was widely accepted. On January 11, 1966, he breathed his last in Tashkent after a cardiac arrest.**

Mahatma Gandhi was born on 2 October, 1869 at Porbandar, Gujarat. Every year on 2 October, Gandhi Jayanti is observed. This year the day marks the 152nd birth anniversary. His birthday is celebrated every year as Gandhi Jayanti. His ideology of truth and non-violence influenced many and was also adopted by Martin Luther and Nelson Mandela for their struggle movement. On 30 January Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse and so, this day is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas.

India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'Mitra Shakti' is being conducted in Sri Lanka

- **The 8th Edition of India – Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'Mitra Shakti' is being conducted in Sri Lanka from 4th to 15th of October this year. An all arms contingent of 120 personnel of the Indian Army will participate in the exercise along with a battalion of the Sri Lankan Army.**
- **The exercise will involve tactical level operations at sub-unit level in an international counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism environment and will go a long way in further strengthening the relationship between both the South Asian Nations. This will also act as a catalyst in bringing synergy and cooperation at grass root level between both Armies. The seventh edition of the joint exercise was conducted at Foreign Training Node (FTN) Maharashtra's Pune in 2019.**

SLINEX (Sri Lanka India Naval Exercise) are a series of naval exercises between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lanka Navy. The first ever SLINEX exercise took place in 2005. Sri Lanka is an island country in South Asia, located in the Indian Ocean to the southwest of the Bay of Bengal. Sri Lanka is separated from the India by the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait. Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte is the official, administrative capital of Sri Lanka. Colombo is the commercial capital and largest city of Sri Lanka. Gotabaya Rajapaksa is the current President of Sri Lanka. Mahinda Rajapaksa is the Prime Minister. The rupee is the currency of Sri Lanka.

NITI Aayog launches State Nutrition Profiles for 19 States & UTs

- **NITI Aayog, in a joint effort with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Indian Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), UNICEF and Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) launched the State Nutrition Profiles for 19 States and Union Territories.**
- **The State Nutrition Profiles (SNPs) give insights on nutrition outcomes, immediate and underlying determinants and interventions based on National Family Health Survey rounds 3, 4 and 5. The SNPs include a comprehensive compilation of crucial data that can positively affect policy decisions and facilitate research in the area.**

The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. It was established to replace the Planning Commission which followed a top-down model. NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs. The current chairman of NITI Aayog is Shri Narendra Modi, current vice chairman is Dr. Rajiv Kumar and the current chief executive officer is Shri Amitabh Kant.

EC freezes Lok Janshakti Party poll symbol

- **The Election Commission has frozen Lok Janshakti Party LJP poll symbol till dispute between Chirag Paswan and Pashupati Paras factions is resolved.**
- **In its order the Commission has barred both factions from using the name of LJP or its symbol bungalow till the dispute between the rival groups is settled by the poll-body.**

On the question of a split in a political party outside the legislature, Para 15 of the Symbols Order, 1968, states: "When the Commission is satisfied... that there are rival sections or groups of a recognised political party each of whom claims to be that party the Commission may, after taking into account all the available facts and circumstances of the case and hearing (their) representatives... and other persons as desire to be heard decide that one such rival section or group or none of such rival sections or groups is that recognised political party and the decision of the Commission shall be binding on all such rival sections or groups."



Accra named UNESCO World Book Capital 2023

- The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, has named Accra (Ghana) as UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023, following the evaluation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee.
- After Guadalajara (Mexico) in 2022, the city of Accra was selected for its strong focus on young people and their potential to contribute to the culture and wealth of Ghana. Accra's proposed programme seeks to use the power of books to engage these young people, as an effective way of skilling up the next generation.

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN). It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. Political and economic arrangements of governments are not enough to secure the lasting and sincere support of the peoples. Peace must be founded upon dialogue and mutual understanding. Peace must be built upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity. It is headquartered at the World Heritage Centre in Paris, France. Audrey Azoulay is a French civil servant and politician who has been serving as the Director-General of the UNESCO since 2017, becoming the second female leader of the organization.

India, UK likely to announce 'green grid' at COP26 summit

- India and the UK are likely to announce a joint declaration on "one sun, one world, one grid" — or OSOWOG, a concept New Delhi has been pushing through its International Solar Alliance — at the upcoming COP26.
- Both countries have been working towards achieving this concept, and the joint venture will be signed by energy ministers of the two nations in the presence of the two Prime Ministers. The UN Climate Change Conference, or COP26, is scheduled to be held between October 31 and November 12 in Scotland.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom (UK or U.K.), or Britain, is a sovereign country in north-western Europe, off the north-western coast of the European mainland. The United Kingdom includes the island of Great Britain, the north-eastern part of the island of Ireland, and many smaller islands within the British Isles. The United Kingdom's capital is London. Boris Johnson has been Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party since July 2019. Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary) is Queen of the United Kingdom and 15 other Commonwealth realms. Pound sterling is the official currency of the United Kingdom.

Iceland elects Europe's first female majority parliament

- Iceland looks set to make history by becoming the first European country to elect a female majority to parliament. According to projections based on the final election results, 33 of the 63 seats in the Althingi, or 52%, have been won by women.
- This would mark an increase of nine seats from the last election in 2017. No other European country has breached the 50% threshold, with Sweden coming closest at 47%, according to data from the Inter Parliamentary Union.

Iceland is a Nordic island country in the North Atlantic Ocean and the most sparsely populated country in Europe. The capital and largest city is Reykjavík. Katrin Jakobsdottir is an Icelandic politician serving as the prime minister of Iceland since 2017. The krona is the currency of Iceland.

Tunisia's President appoints woman as prime minister in first for Arab world

- **Tunisian President Kais Saied has appointed Najla Bouden Romdhan as the first female Prime Minister in Tunisia** and the Arab world, two months after he sacked the previous government and seized wide-ranging executive powers.
- **“This is the first time in the history of Tunisia that a woman has led a government,”** Saied said as he met with Romdhan, according to a video from the president’s office. **“It is an honor to Tunisia and Tunisian women.” Romdhan served in the ministry of higher education in 2011, according to Tunisia’s privately owned Mosaïque FM.**

Tunisia is the northernmost country in Africa. Its capital and largest city is Tunis. The dinar is the currency of Tunisia. In 2011, the Tunisian Revolution, triggered by the lack of freedom and democracy under the 24-year rule of president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, overthrew his regime and catalyzed the broader Arab Spring across the region.

Berlin to get first female mayor

- Germany’s center-left Social Democrats (SPD) scored a bonus election win in Berlin on top of their slim victory in the nationwide election. In a closely fought race, **Franziska Giffey, the SPD candidate to be the mayor of Berlin, won 21.4% of the vote, beating rival candidates from the Green party, Bettina Jarasch, on 18.9%, and the conservative Christian Democrat (CDU) option, Kai Wegner, on 18.1%.**
- **Giffey, who is set to become Berlin’s first ever female mayor,** told local public broadcaster RBB that she wanted to talk to both the Greens and the CDU about forming a possible coalition, saying her priority was “to get as much of the SPD’s program into the coalition negotiations as possible.”

Japan: Fumio Kishida wins governing party leadership election, set to be next PM

- **Japan’s former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida has won the governing party leadership election and is set to be the next Prime Minister.**
- **Kishida replaces outgoing party leader Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga,** who is stepping down after serving only one year since taking office last September.

Naruhito is the Emperor of Japan. He acceded to the Chrysanthemum Throne on 1 May 2019, beginning the Reiwa era, following the abdication of his father, Emperor Akihito, on 30 April 2019. He is the 126th monarch according to Japan’s traditional order of succession. Tokyo is the capital city of Japan and yen is the official currency of Japan and it is the third most traded currency in the foreign exchange market after the United States dollar and the euro. Fumio Kishida is the current Prime Minister of Japan since 4 October 2021. He has also served as President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) since 29 September 2021.

Machu Picchu is now the world’s first carbon neutral tourist destination

- **Machu Picchu has become the first international destination to obtain the carbon neutral certificate.** The certification was awarded to the Historic and Natural Sanctuary of Machu Picchu by the Green Initiative, which is an institution that seeks to promote green and environmentally friendly tourism.
- **The Green Initiative positioned Machu Picchu as a global reference in terms of sustainability.** As per the certification, it seeks to drastically reduce carbon dioxide emissions of the Inca citadel, with the intention of reducing 45 percent of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in 2030 and reaching neutrality in 2050.
- Among all the other actions, **Machu Picchu got the certification for installing the only organic waste treatment plant that exists in Peru, to transform garbage into natural coal as well as for having the transformation plant of oil that produces biodiesel and glycerin from vegetable oils,** discarded from homes and restaurants in the area.

France and Greece sign defence deal

- France and Greece announced a defence deal worth around €3 billion (\$3.5 billion), including Athens' decision to buy three French warships, as part of a strategy to boost its defence capacities in the Eastern Mediterranean amid recurring tensions with Turkey, a long-time foe.
- French President Emmanuel Macron and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced a defence and security strategic partnership in Paris.

France is a transcontinental country spanning Western Europe and overseas regions and territories in South America and the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. France is a unitary semi-presidential republic with its capital in Paris. Euro is the official currency of France and CFP franc is the currency used in the French overseas collectivities of French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna. Greece is a country located in Southeast Europe. Athens is its largest and capital city. Euro is the official currency of it.

Dubai's Expo opens, bringing first World Fair to the Mideast

- After eight years of planning and billions of dollars in spending, the Middle East's first ever World Fair opened in Dubai, with hopes the months-long extravaganza draws both visitors and global attention to this desert-turned-dreamscape.
- Named Expo 2020, the event was postponed by a year due to the outbreak of the coronavirus last year. While that could have an impact on how many people flock to the United Arab Emirates, the six-month-long exhibition offers Dubai a momentous opportunity to showcase its unique East-meets-West appeal as a place where all are welcome for business.

Italy's 'Smart Bay' seeks to tackle Mediterranean climate change

- On Italy's Ligurian coast, biologists and environmentalists are working to tackle the effects of climate change in the Mediterranean with help from a so-called "Smart Bay".
- Marine biologists fear the Mediterranean is becoming hotter and more acidic, which would affect the habitat of many native species and also lead to violent changes in weather systems such as more frequent tornadoes.
- The Santa Teresa Smart Bay, in an area on the northwestern coast noted for tourism and diving, is Italy's first underwater "living" laboratory where scientists use aquatic invertebrate animals known as bryozoans and other organisms as live sensors.
- Researchers from the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) and the National Research Council (CNR) chose the small bay as a perfect location to monitor the seawater. It provides data for the study of extreme weather events that are becoming more frequent in countries such as Italy, Greece, Spain, and France.

Italy is a country consisting of a peninsula delimited by the Alps and several islands surrounding it. Italy is located in the center of the Mediterranean Sea, in Southern Europe, and is also often considered part of Western Europe. A unitary parliamentary republic with Rome as its capital and largest city. Sergio Mattarella is current President of Italy since 2015. Mario Draghi is the current Prime Minister of Italy since 13 February 2021. Euro is the official currency of it.



Bharat Petroleum, SBI Card Launch Co-Branded RuPay Credit Card

- State-run oil refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) partnered with State Bank of India (SBI) Cards to launch the BPCL SBI Co-branded RuPay contactless credit card.
- The card is said to provide rewarding fuel savings and benefits, and cardholders will also make huge savings on other categories of spends which include groceries, dining, departmental stores, and movies, according to a statement shared by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- The users of BPCL SBI Card RuPay will receive 13X reward points on every ₹ 100 spent on fuel purchases at the Bharat Petroleum petrol pumps and one per cent fuel surcharge waiver on every transaction upto ₹ 4,000, translating to 4.25 per cent, according to the statement. Customers using the contactless credit card will earn 2,000 activation bonus reward points worth ₹ 500 on the payment of joining fee.

RuPay (Rupee and Payment) is an Indian multinational financial services and payment service system, conceived and launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on 26 March 2012. It was created to fulfil the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) vision of establishing a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments. RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions. NPCI maintains ties with Discover Financial, JCB to enable RuPay card scheme to gain international acceptance.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched e-RUPI, a person and purpose specific digital payment solution on 2nd August 2021. e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment. It is a QR code or SMS string-based e-Voucher, which is delivered to the mobile of the beneficiaries. The users of this seamless one-time payment mechanism will be able to redeem the voucher without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access, at the service provider. It has been developed by National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI platform, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority. e-RUPI connects the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface. It also ensures that the payment to the service provider is made only after the transaction is completed. Being pre-paid in nature, it assures timely payment to the service provider without involvement of any intermediary.

India bags 14th spot in World Giving Index; 61% Indians helped strangers in 2020 Covid pandemic

- India has stood among the top-20 generous countries, according to the CAF World Giving Index 2021. India has bagged the 14th spot and is up from the 10-year global rank of 82. "India is one of the fastest climbers on the Index, it ranks 14 this year, in the 10th Anniversary report, India ranked 82," the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) latest survey said.
- As per the report, 61% more Indians have helped a stranger during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic year. Last year, 36% of Indians donated money, 34% volunteered for social causes in the country.

- Globally, developed countries like the USA, Canada, Ireland, the UK, and the Netherlands fell out of the highest ranking, only Australia and New Zealand maintained the top-10 ranking. Interestingly, poor countries like Kenya, Nigeria, and Ghana were spotted under the top-10 generous countries in the CAF 2021 index.

India emerges as Dubai's second biggest trade partner

- Dubai's biggest trade partner is China, recording 30.7% growth year-on-year with total trade in H1 2020. India has emerged as Dubai's second biggest trading partner after China with the overall volume touching 38.5 billion dirham in the first half of 2021.
- According to a Dubai government statement, the emirate had a trade volume of 86.7 billion dirham with China in H1 (first half) of 2021, followed by India and the U.S. at third position. Trade with India grew 74.5% year-on-year to 67.1 billion dirham from 38.5 billion dirham in H1 2020.

UK's Wellington College to open schools in India, 1st campus to come up in Pune

- UK's Wellington College International and India's Unison Group have entered a partnership to open premium schools in India.
- The schools will share the values, ethos, enduring quality and ambition of Wellington College, while combining the very best of British and Indian education.

Starter launches Nasdex, the first Asia-focused decentralized exchange, in India

- Community-driven launchpad, Starter, which supports interoperability of initial DEX offerings (IDO), has launched the IDO of Nasdex in India.
- Nasdex is an Asia-focused decentralized exchange that offers the ability to trade tokenized equities on blockchain via minting and trading mechanism that mimics the off-chain economics of the real-world equity price. An initial DEX offering or IDO refers to the launching of a cryptocurrency on a decentralized exchange (DEX).
- According to CoinMarketCap, decentralized exchanges or DEXs are autonomous decentralized applications that allow cryptocurrency buyers or sellers to trade without having to give up control over their funds to any intermediary or custodian.
- Nasdex serves as a bridge between the crypto and the equity world and seeks to mitigate limitations of traditional equity exchanges such as geographical and portfolio management and investors only being able to buy stocks but unable to sell.

NASDEX is a decentralized exchange that offers our users the ability to trade tokenized equities on blockchain via our minting and trading mechanism that mimics the offchain economics of the real world equity price.

Paytm becomes India's first platform to accept international remittances directly into digital wallet

- Paytm Payments Bank has forged a tie-up with Ria Money Transfer, a cross-border money transfer firm and a business segment of Euronet Worldwide, to help its 333 million customers receive money from their relatives abroad.
- This partnership makes Paytm the country's first platform to accept international remittances directly into a digital wallet. On the other hand, Ria Money became the first money transfer company to connect with Paytm's wallet users.

Paytm ("pay through mobile") is an Indian multinational technology company that specialises in digital wallet, e-commerce, payment system and financial technology company, based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India. Paytm was founded in August 2010 with an initial investment of \$2 million by its founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma in Noida, a region adjacent to India's capital New Delhi. It started off as a prepaid mobile and DTH recharge platform, and later added data card, postpaid mobile and landline bill payments in 2013.

SEBI approves frameworks for Gold and Social Stock Exchanges

- Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the frameworks for gold exchange and Social Stock Exchange. A gold exchange is being set up to trade the yellow metal in the form of electronic gold receipts, which will help in having a transparent domestic spot price discovery mechanism.
- The instrument representing gold is to be called Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR), and will be having trading, clearing and settlement features akin to other securities. In a statement, SEBI said, the Gold Exchange, encompassing the entire ecosystem of trading of EGR and physical delivery of gold, is expected to create a vibrant gold ecosystem in the country.
- The Gold Exchange would be a national platform for buying and selling EGRs with underlying standardized gold in India and also create a national pricing structure for gold.
- Under the creation of Social Stock Exchange (SSE), the Sebi board said, it will be used for purpose of fund raising by social entrepreneurs. SSE will be a separate segment of the existing stock exchanges.
- Social Enterprises (SEs) eligible to participate in the SSE should be entities, Non-Profit Organizations, and for-profit social enterprises, having social intent and impact as their primary goal.
- The framework for the SSE has been developed on the basis of the recommendations of a working group and technical group constituted by the regulator.
- The Sebi board has decided to amend rules pertaining to delisting of equity shares of a company following an open offer as part of efforts to make merger and acquisition transactions more rational and convenient. It also eased eligibility requirements relating to Superior Voting Rights shares framework.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the regulatory body for securities and commodity market in India under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It was established on 12 April 1988 and given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992. SEBI has its headquarters at the business district of Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai. Ajay Tyagi was appointed chairman on 10 February 2017, replacing U K Sinha, and took charge of the chairman office on 1 March 2017.

Delhi Greenest City for Real Estate In India, Ranks 63rd Globally: Report

- Delhi is the greenest city for real estate in India but ranks 63rd globally, according to a study by property consultant Knight Frank. London, Shanghai, New York, Paris and Washington DC are the world's top five green cities for real estate.
- "Globally ranked 63rd, Delhi is the greenest city for real estate in India. Followed by Chennai with a global rank of 224, Mumbai with a global rank of 240, Hyderabad with a global rank of 245, Bengaluru with a global rank of 259 and Pune with a global rank of 260," Knight Frank said in a statement.
- US, UK, Germany, France, and the Netherlands are set to be the top destinations for cross border real estate investment in 2022.

Indel Money partners with IndusInd Bank for India's first conventional gold loan co-lending partnership

- Indel Money, a non-banking finance company (NBFC) pioneering in gold loans, has entered into a first-of-its-kind conventional gold loan co-lending partnership with IndusInd Bank to offer gold loans at competitive rates to a bigger and diverse segment of borrowers.
- Under the co-lending partnership agreement, Indel Money will originate and process gold loans based on mutually formulated credit parameters and eligibility criteria.
- The company will service the customers through the entire lifecycle of the loans including sourcing, documentation, collection and loan servicing.
- IndusInd Bank will take into its book 80% of the gold loan generated by the co-lending arrangement while the remaining 20% will be funded by Indel Money. The NBFC will start the co-lending partnership with a pilot project in Sept 2021 before expanding it pan India.

IndusInd Bank Limited is a **new-generation Indian bank headquartered in Pune**. The bank offers commercial, transactional and electronic banking products and services. **IndusInd Bank was inaugurated in April 1994 by then Union Finance Minister Manmohan Singh**. **IndusInd Bank is the first among the new-generation private banks in India.**

CII's First 'East India Summit' to Kickoff

- **The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized the first 'East India Summit' virtually**, bringing together six countries and states of East and North East to deliberate on infrastructure investment opportunities.
- **The 'East India Summit 2021' is scheduled from September 28 till October 7**. This is going to be a digital venture and will bring together a wide audience and participants from across the world.
- **The CII theme for 2021-22 is 'Building India for a New World: Competitiveness, Growth, Sustainability, Technology'** – which would essentially aim towards bringing the entire ecosystem work in partnership.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group headquartered in New Delhi, India, founded in 1895. CII engages business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas. It is a membership-based organisation.

Ranthambore's 700-year-old Barwara Fort becomes India's 1st Six Senses hotel

- **A 14th century fort in Rajasthan's famed tiger district Ranthambore has been "sensitively" converted into a luxury hotel, marking the entry of hospitality major InterContinental Hotels Group's (IHG) wellness and sustainability brand Six Senses into India.**
- **The original Barwara Fort was constructed in the 14th century by the Chauhans. The 700-year-old fort's restoration took more than a decade**, incorporating two palaces and as many temples within the walled fort. Now converted into a hotel, it has **48 one-bedroom suites designed in a contemporary Rajasthani style**. The resort has three restaurants with a bar and lounge, apart from a Six Senses Spa and fitness centre and two swimming pools, banqueting areas, a lifestyle boutique and a children's club.

IITian entrepreneur makes into Hurun Top 10 India rich list for first time

- **Indian-American entrepreneur and the CEO-founder of cloud security company Zscaler, Jay Chaudhry is tenth richest Indian, according to a report by IIFL-Hurun India's top 10 rich list.**
- **The increased demand for enterprise cyber security services amidst increased corporate ransomware attacks contributed a 85% increase in Chaudhry's wealth and stormed into the top 10 of IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich list 2021.**

ONGC Videsh first Indian company to hunt for oil, gas in Bangladesh

- **ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) has started exploration in Bangladesh, becoming the first Indian entity to hunt for oil and gas in that country.**
- **The overseas investment arm of state-run ONGC, in consortium with Oil India Ltd, started drilling the first well in shallow offshore Block SS04 off Maheshkhali Island, about 355 km from Capital Dhaka, in Chittagong division of Cox's Bazar district.**

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is an Indian government-owned crude oil and natural gas corporation. Its registered office is in New Delhi. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. It is the **largest oil and gas exploration and production company in the country**, and produces around **70% of India's crude oil (equivalent to around 57% of the country's total demand)** and around **84% of its natural gas**. In November 2010, the Government of India conferred the **Maharatna status to ONGC**.



Inventions/Discoveries

NASA launches Landsat 9 satellite to boost climate change monitoring

- NASA's Landsat 9 satellite was successfully launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. The satellite will monitor the Earth's land surface and provide data to assist in climate change planning.
- The satellite is performing as expected, NASA said in a statement. It lifted off on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex 3E, following which the Landsat 9 observatory successfully separated from the vehicle.
- The launch marks nearly 50 years of Landsat presence in space. The first launch was in 1972 – since then, a Landsat has always remained in orbit. The Landsat 9 will join previously-launched Landsat 8 to collect images across Earth every eight days.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established NASA in 1958. Sen. Bill Nelson was sworn in as the 14th NASA administrator on May 3, 2021, tasked with carrying out the Biden-Harris administration's vision for the agency.

Uttarakhand forest department dedicates North India's biggest Palmetum to citizens

- The Uttarakhand Forest Department dedicated the state's first Palmetum and the biggest one in North India, to the people in the Haldwani area of Nainital district. The Palmetum, which took over three years to develop, has over 110 species of palms.
- "One palm species is endemic to Uttarakhand. It is called Trachycarpus Takil (Takil Palm) and is the only Palm that can survive sub-zero temperature and has also been declared as a threatened species by the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board.

India has emerged as 4th largest exporter of Marine products in the world

- MoS I&B Dr L Murugan said that India has emerged as the 4th largest exporter of Marine products in the world. Marine products account for 17 to 18 per cent of the total agricultural products exports of the country. The Union Government initiative of the Matsya Sampada is paying its rich dividends.

AIIMS-Bhubaneswar receives funding for 'first' brain bank of Eastern India

- The AIIMS-Bhubaneswar has received funding from the ICMR to establish a satellite brain bank, a "first of its kind" in the eastern region that will boost research in neurosciences.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research sanctioned ₹47 lakh for setting up a satellite brain bio-bank in the department of pathology and lab medicine. A brain bank is a repository of brain samples of deceased persons, which finds use in research work. The approved duration of the scheme is three years, and annual extensions will be granted after review of the work done, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar said.

India successfully flight-tests new version of Akash missile

- A new version of the Akash Missile, Akash Prime was successfully flight tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha. The missile intercepted and destroyed an unmanned aerial target mimicking enemy aircrafts, in its maiden flight test after improvements.
- In comparison to the existing Akash System, Akash Prime is equipped with an indigenous active Radio Frequency seeker for improved accuracy. Other improvements also ensure more reliable performance under low temperature environments at higher altitudes.
- Modified ground system of the existing Akash weapon system has been used for the current flight test. The range stations of Integrated Test Range comprising Radars, Electro Optical Tracking System and Telemetry stations monitored the missile trajectory and flight parameters.

US engineers create ‘smallest-ever human-made flying structure’

- Engineers from Illinois’ Northwestern University have created an electronic microchip or “microflier” with flight capabilities, which can help monitor air pollution levels and airborne diseases.
- The “smallest-ever human-made flying structure”, which is about the size of a grain of sand, does not require an engine or a motor. Instead, it catches flight on the wind — much like a maple tree’s propeller seed — and spins like a helicopter through the air toward the ground.

Himachal Pradesh becomes first state in India to begin organised cultivation of true dalchini

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) -Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) has, for the first time, begun organized cultivation of ‘true’ variety of cinnamon plant in the country.
- “The true cinnamon is derived from Cinnamomum verum whereas the majority of cinnamon being sold in the market is derived from Cinnamomum cassia which is yet another species whose bark is used in place of Cinnamomum verum and it has a high content of coumarin which is not good for health and is known as kidney destroyer due to which it is banned in the US and other countries”.

New Discovery about Immune “Sentinel” Cells May Aid In Cancer Treatment

- Australian Researchers during a recent study made a surprise discovery about how immune “sentinel” cells are maintained, which could have implications for drugs in development for cancer treatment.
- The findings of the study were published in the journal Science Immunology. The researchers studied the impact of deleting specific proteins in immune cells that were responsible for controlling the ability of cells to silence or switch off genes.
- They were surprised to find that one population of “sentinel” immune cells was affected by the deletion of a component of the machinery, causing the cells to disappear from skin and lungs completely. This suggests that drugs that inhibit this component to treat diseases, such as cancer, could have unintended consequences for the immune system.

World’s First ‘Jumanji - The Adventure’ Theme Park to Open In Italy

- Italy is all set to welcome cinephiles and all those who love thrill and adventure to the world’s first theme park ride based on the much-loved Jumanji franchise.
- The ride has been named ‘Jumanji — The Adventure’ and will be located at the Gardaland Resort in Italy. The ride based on the Sony Big Pictures franchise will be open to the public in 2022.

Hara Bhara, India’s first aerial seeding campaign launched in Hyderabad

- In a move to accelerate reforestation across the country, Hara Bhara, India’s first aerial seeding campaign using the Seedcopter drone was launched by Marut Drones, an aerial seeding company, in collaboration with the Telangana State government. The idea of the campaign is to accelerate the mission of reforestation through the planting of one billion trees using drones by 2030 in the country.



Sports Personalities in News

Odisha to host junior men's World Cup Hockey from November 24 to December 5

- Odisha will host the junior men's World Cup Hockey in coming November. Chief minister Naveen Patnaik announced this in capital Bhubaneswar. He also unveiled the logo and trophy for the tournament.
- As many as 16 countries will take part in the event that will be held in the Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar from the 24th November 5th December 2021. Odisha had hosted the 2018 men's hockey world cup.

Virat Kohli becomes first Indian batter to score 10,000 runs in T20 format

- India captain Virat Kohli reached a coveted milestone of 10,000-run mark in all forms of T20 cricket (international, domestic and franchise) during his side Royal Challengers Bangalore's IPL match against Mumbai Indians.

Sania Mirza-Shuai Zhang win Ostrava Open women's doubles title

- India's Tennis veteran, Sania Mirza won the doubles title at the Ostrava Open with her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang. The final was held at the ČEZ Aréna in Ostrava in the Czech Republic.
- This is the first title of this season for Sania Mirza and the 43rd title of her career. Ostrava Open is a tournament organized for women tennis players. It resurfaced in 2020 to make up for the loss of tournaments due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ganemat Sekhon wins Silver in women's Skeet at the Junior World Championships

- Rising Women's Skeet talent Ganemat Sekhon has won a silver medal at International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship in Lima, Peru.

Smriti Mandhana becomes first Indian women to score a Test hundred on Australian soil

- In a historic moment in women's cricket, Smriti Mandhana became first Indian woman to score a Test hundred on Australian soil.
- Mandhana made 127 off 216 balls with the help of 22 boundaries and a six at the Carrara Oval, and added an Indian record of 102 runs in Australia for the second wicket with Punam Raut (36), continuing the good work after putting on 93 with Shafali Verma on a rain-marred opening day.

MISCELLANEOUS

I&B Minister Anurag Thakur launched Clean India Programme from Prayagraj

- **Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched a month-long Clean India Programme from Prayagraj as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.** This programme starting from 1st of October will continue till the month-end.
- The aim of the cleanliness drive is to **create awareness, mobilize people and ensure their involvement in cleaning waste mainly Single Use Plastic waste throughout the country.**
- **This programme is being organised in six lakh villages of 744 districts across the country through the networks of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan-NYKS affiliated Youth Clubs and National Service Scheme-affiliated institutions.** All preparations have been put in place to kickstart the programme at Sangam City Prayagraj.
- **Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched Swacch Bharat Abhiyan in a programme organized at the campus of Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Prayagraj.** Apart from the various departments, public participation will also be ensured in the programme.

Ministry of Tourism launched 'NIDHI 2.0' & 'India Tourism Statistics'

- **The Ministry of Tourism is organized an event to celebrate "World Tourism Day 2021" on 27th September 2021 in New Delhi,** which has been designated by the UNWTO as a day to focus on "Tourism for Inclusive Growth". Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla was chief guest of the event.
- **NIDHI 2.0 (National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry) and 'India Tourism Statistics – At a Glance, 2021' has launched.** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will also be signed between Ministry of Tourism, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and The Responsible Tourism Society of India (RTSOI) to actively promote and support 'sustainability initiatives' in the tourism sector of each other.

Mumbai to get 1st state military museum

- **Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said a state war memorial-cum-museum will be set up in Mumbai,** showcasing glorious achievements of the Indian armed forces.
- The work on the museum be **completed expeditiously and some parts of it must be opened for the public by August 15, 2022.**

Government organised Vayo Naman Programme in honour of senior citizens

- **Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry organised Vayo Naman Programme in the honour of senior citizens on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons in New Delhi.** Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu was the chief guest of the programme and conferred the Vayosheshtira Samman awards.
- **The Vice President also dedicated the Elderly Help Line 14567 to the Nation and launch the Senior Able Citizens Reemployment in Dignity (SACRED) and Senior Care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) Portals on this occasion.** The Ministry celebrates International Day of Older Persons every year on 1st of October for the cause of elderly persons.

Lakshadweep to get its first statue – of Mahatma Gandhi

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the first public statue in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep — that of Mahatma Gandhi.** The six-foot-tall bronze statue is installed in Kavaratti Island.
- **"This will be the first ever statue to be unveiled in Lakshadweep islands to commemorate the contribution of our great freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the cause of India's independence.**
- **It is a milestone for Lakshadweep to unveil the statue of the Father of the Nation on the day of Gandhi Jayanti and dedicate it to the nation on this auspicious occasion by the Hon'ble Defence Minister".**

Centre transforms 29 labour laws with four labour codes: Union Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav

- Union Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that **Centre has transformed 29 labour laws with four labour codes. ESI COVID-19 and Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna Relief Scheme Approval Letters to Unorganised Workers and Beneficiaries at a programme in Mumbai**, he said no matter in which sector a labourer is working his social security should be guaranteed.
- **The labour ministry had envisaged implementing the four codes on industrial relations, wages, social security and occupational health safety & working conditions from April 1, 2021.**
- **These four labour codes will rationalise 44 central labour laws. The ministry had even finalised the rules under the four codes. But these could not be implemented because many states were not in a position to notify rules under these codes in their jurisdictions.**
- **Labour is a concurrent subject under the Constitution of India and therefore both the Centre and states have to notify rules under these four codes to make them the laws of the land in their respective jurisdictions.**

Chhattisgarh launches cow dung based power generation project

- **Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel launched an electricity generation project that uses cow dung as fuel at a farmers' event to mark Gandhi Jayanti. The programme will see women and youth get opportunities and also will be a step towards realizing Mahatma Gandhi's dream of 'Gram Swaraj' (village self rule). "The entire world is worried over global warming.**
- **There is talk of green energy everywhere, so our government has decided to make electricity from cow dung. In every village, such a unit will be set up in gauthans (a place in rural areas where cattle are kept), where cow dung is procured under the Godhan Nyay Yojana scheme".**

Kaveree Bamzai's 'The Three Khans' and the India they shaped

- **A book has titled "The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India" authored by Kaveree Bamzai.**
- **In the book, senior journalist, Kaveree Bamzai has juxtaposed the careers of the 3 Khans, Aamir, Shah Rukh, & Salman, with the most tumultuous times in the history of the republic.**

Drones dance at first of its kind exhibition in India

- **Botlab Dynamics, a start-up incubated at IIT-Delhi and the Drone Federation of India, put up the country's first drone display and it had about 80 small drones dancing about and creating intricate multi-coloured formations in the skies above IIT-Delhi. Under Kharola's watch a month ago, sweeping changes have been made on drone regulations that will enable the industry to fly to new heights in coming years.**

Gandhi Museum inaugurated at Noakhali in Bangladesh

- **On the occasion of the 152 birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the renovated Gandhi Museum was inaugurated at the historic Gandhi Ashram Trust at Noakhali in Bangladesh. The inauguration was done by the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr A K Abdul Momen, Law Minister Advocate Anisul Huq and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami. The renovation of the Museum housed inside the Gandhi Ashram campus has been supported by India.**
- **A seminar on the theme of Ahimsa, Satyagraha and the Mahatma - Revisited was also organised to commemorate the International Day of Non-Violence and the 152nd Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Ashram, Noakhali as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.**

PERSONS IN NEWS

LGBT activist Dorottya Redai named in Time's 100 most-influential people in the world list

- **An academic and LGBT activist in Hungary is among the world's 100 most influential people**, according to Time magazine, for her work on a children's book that set in motion a debate over human rights in the Central European country.
- "It's an honor. Obviously, it feels really rewarding to be one of these amazing 100 people," **Dorottya Redai, a researcher at the CEU Democracy Institute in Budapest and activist with the Labrisz Lesbian Association.**
- **The magazine included Redai on its annual TIME100 list last month to honor her efforts to advance LGBT rights in Hungary**, where recent moves by the country's right-wing government have been blasted as an attack on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.
- **At the center of Redai's recent work was her spearheading the publication of "Meseország Mindenkié" ("Fairyland is for Everyone")**, a children's book that retells classic fairytales. The book features disabled children, Roma people, LGBT protagonists and members of other minority groups as characters.
- **According to Redai, who helped coordinate and recruit the 17 authors who contributed tales, the book was intended to "address social issues in ways that are digestible for younger children,"** and to provide parents and teachers with a tool for discussing difficult topics like child neglect, the death of a parent, adoption and poverty.
- But its publication sparked a backlash in Hungary. **A week after "Fairyland is for Everyone" came out, a politician from a far-right party tore pages out of a copy and put them through a paper shredder, calling the book "homosexual propaganda."**

Urvashi Rautela becomes first Indian female actress to receive 10 years UAE golden visa

- In the past, many cine stars have been **granted the Golden Visa by Dubai including actor Shah Rukh Khan, actor Sanjay Dutt, actor Suniel Shetty, singer Neha Kakkar, and recently filmmaker Boney Kapoor.** Now, actress Urvashi Rautela has been also granted the same recognition.

Jungle Nama Book by Amitav Ghosh

- **Jungle Nama is a book written by Amitav Ghosh and illustrated by New York-based artist Salman Toor.** It is a verse adaptation of the medieval Bengali tale about the forest (Sundarbans) goddess, Bon Bibi.

AWARDS

Indian environmental law organisation wins Right Livelihood Award

- Delhi-based environmental organisation **Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)** has received the **2021 Right Livelihood Award** for its “grassroots approach of empowering vulnerable communities to protect their livelihoods and claim their right to a clean environment.”
- The award is known as Sweden’s **alternative Nobel Prize**. Other awardees include **Cameroonian women rights activist Marthe Wandou**, **Russian environmental activist Vladimir Slivyak**, and **Canadian Indigenous rights defender Freda Huson**.
- The **Right Livelihood Award** honours and supports people solving global problems. It comes with a cash prize of **1 million Swedish crowns (115,000 USD)** and long-term support to highlight and expand Laureates’ work.
- The jury of **Stockholm-based Right Livelihood**, which chose the awardees, said that **LIFE** was receiving the Award “for innovative legal work empowering communities to protect their resources in the pursuit of environmental democracy in India.”
- The prize was established in 1980 by **German-Swedish philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull**, and is presented annually in early December. Although it is promoted as an “Alternative Nobel Prize”, it is not a Nobel prize (i.e., a prize created by Alfred Nobel). It does not have any organizational ties at all to the awarding institutions of the Nobel Prize or the Nobel Foundation, unlike the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, which is not technically a Nobel prize but is administered by the Nobel Foundation.

The man behind “Yellow Revolution” – Mr. Dinesh Shahra, awarded with Globoil Lifetime Achievement Award 2021

- **Dinesh Shahra**, has received **Globoil India Lifetime Achievement Award 2021** for his exemplary contribution to the **Edible Oil Industry**, held with all its grandeur and glamour, at **Taj Convention Centre Hotel, Goa**.
- **Dinesh Shahra** is one of the few industrialists who successfully made an indelible mark in the **Indian agriculture sector**. By spearheading the ‘**yellow revolution**’, Mr. Shahra played a pivotal role in transforming **Madhya Pradesh** into the “soy bowl of India”, providing millions of Indians access to quality nutrition. His vision for self-sufficiency, strategic food security & agri-reforms has enhanced the livelihood of millions of stakeholders, especially farmers.

Bangladeshi Fairouz Faizah Beether gets 2021 Changemaker Award

- **Fairouz Faizah Beether** of **Bangladesh** has been chosen for the **2021 Changemaker Award** for her work promoting good health and well-being by the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**. The award celebrates an individual who has inspired change using personal experience or from a position of leadership.
- The **Changemaker Award** is part of the **Goalkeepers Global Goals** award instituted by the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** to accelerate progress towards attaining the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** of the UN.

Yemeni humanitarian organization wins Nansen Refugee Award 2021

- A humanitarian organization from **Yemen** has been declared as the winner of the **2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award**. The organisation named “**Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development**”, founded in 2017 by **Ameen Jubran** has won the prestigious honour to support and provide a lifeline to tens of thousands of **Yemenis people** displaced by the country’s conflict.
- The **UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award** honours individuals, groups or organizations for going above and beyond the call of duty to protect refugees, other displaced and stateless people.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Rivers Day 2021

- Every year on the fourth Sunday of September, World River Day is observed to raise awareness regarding water bodies and to promote their conservation. This year, it falls on September 26.
- The theme for World Rivers Day 2021 is “Waterways in our communities” with a specific emphasis on the need to conserve and repair urban waterways, which are frequently under stress.

International Day for Universal Access to Information 28 September

- On 17 November 2015, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared 28 September as International Day for Universal Access to Information.
- The theme chosen for the 2021 IDUAI is “The Right to Know – Building Back Better with Access to Information.”

International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction 29 September

- On 29 September 2021, the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste was observed for the second time. Globally, around 14 percent of food produced is lost between harvest and retail, while an estimated 17 percent of total global food production is wasted (11 percent in households, 5 percent in the food service and 2 percent in retail).

World Heart Day observed

- To increase public awareness of cardiovascular diseases, their prevention and their global impact, World Heart Day is being observed and celebrated annually on September 29. World Heart Day was first founded in 1999 with the World Heart Federation (WHF) collaborating with the World Health Organisation (WHO). This year, the theme of World Heart Day is “Use Heart to Connect”.

World Maritime Day 30 September

- The World Maritime Day 2021 is observed every year on the last Thursday of the month of September and this year it falls on September 30, 2021.
- This year’s theme is “Seafarers: at the core of shipping’s future”.

International Day of Non-Violence 2 October

- The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. On the International Day of Non-Violence, created by the United Nations in 2007, we look back on the influence of an Indian activist born Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi but known the world over as Mahatma Gandhi. The International Day of Non-Violence honors how Gandhi’s work and legacy has impacted global, non-violent protest.

References:

The Hindu
The Economics Times
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QUESTIONS

1. Recently, Cucumbers from _____ got the Geographical Indication tag.
(a) Sikkim (b) Nagaland (c) Manipur (d) Tripura
2. Which of the following will soon become the first Indian city to use the ropeway services in the public transportation?
(a) Dehradun (b) Varanasi (c) Patna (d) Manali
3. Which of the following has been named as UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023?
(a) Accra (Ghana) (b) Lisbon (Portugal)
(c) Paris (France) (d) Munich (Germany)
4. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the _____ via video-conferencing.
(a) Pradhan Mantri Digital Healthy Mass (PM-DHM)
(b) Pradhan Mantri Digital Healthy Mission (PM-DHM)
(c) Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM)
(d) Pradhan Mantri Digitally Health Mission (PM-DHM)
5. Which of the following countries is set to make history by becoming the first European country to elect a female majority to parliament?
(a) Ireland (b) Iceland (c) Sweden (d) Norway
6. Which of the following oil refineries has recently partnered with State Bank of India (SBI) Cards to launch the Co-branded RuPay contactless credit card?
(a) HPCL (b) BPCL (c) Indian Oil (d) IOCL
7. According to the CAF World Giving Index 2021, India has bagged the _____ spot and is up from the 10-year global rank of 82.
(a) 6th (b) 9th (c) 12th (d) 14th
8. Recently, The Uttarakhand Forest Department dedicated the state's first Palmetum and the biggest one in North India, to the people in the _____.
(a) Nainital district (b) Almora district (c) Haridwar district (d) Chamoli district
9. According to Indian Union Minister, India has emerged as the _____ largest exporter of Marine products in the world.
(a) 2nd (b) 4th (c) 6th (d) 8th
10. Which of the following Indian states will host the junior men's World Cup Hockey in coming November?
(a) West Bengal (b) Jharkhand (c) Odisha (d) Uttar Pradesh
11. Recently, Sojat Mehndi from _____ has received the geographical indication (GI) tag from the government.
(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Karnataka
12. Recently, The world's highest electric vehicle charging station was inaugurated in _____.
(a) Leh, Ladakh (b) Kaza, Lahaul Spiti
(c) Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh (d) Manali, Kullu
13. Recently, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy Dr. L. Murugan was elected unopposed to the lone Rajya Sabha seat from _____.
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Karnataka
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Maharashtra

14. According to a Dubai government statement, India has emerged as Dubai's _____ biggest trading partner after China.
 (a) Second (b) Third (c) Fifth (d) Seventh
15. Recently, Union Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that Centre has transformed _____ labour laws with four labour codes.
 (a) 11 (b) 15 (c) 25 (d) 29
16. Who among the following has received Globoil India Lifetime Achievement Award 2021 for his exemplary contribution to the Edible Oil Industry?
 (a) Amit Rajawat (b) Dinesh Shahra (c) Tejpal Singh Sandhu (d) Gurupal Raj Shekhon
17. The Ministry of Tourism is organized an event to celebrate "World Tourism Day 2021" on _____.
 (a) 21st September (b) 23rd September (c) 25th september (d) 27th September
18. Name the cricketer who reached a coveted milestone of 10,000-run mark in all forms of T20 cricket (international, domestic and franchise).
 (a) Rohit Sharma (b) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
 (c) Suresh Raina (d) Virat Kohli
19. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared _____ as International Day for Universal Access to Information.
 (a) 21 September (b) 23 September
 (c) 25 September (d) 28 September
20. Who is the author of book titled "The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India"?
 (a) Farah Khan (b) Kaveree Bamzai
 (c) Shobhana Bharatiya (d) Arpita Khan
21. Which of the following states traditional Judima wine has become the first beverage from northeast India to be awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?
 (a) Manipur (b) Tripura (c) Mizoram (d) Assam
22. Recently, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the "Amrit Grand Challenge Program" titled _____ to identify 75 Start-Up Innovations in Telemedicine, Digital Health, mHealth with BIG Data, AI, Block Chain and other technologies.
 (a) "जनCARE" (b) "जनSUVIDHA" (c) "जनKALYAN" (d) "जनSEWA"
23. The UK's Wellington College to open schools in India, 1st campus to come up in _____.
 (a) Nagpur (b) New Delhi (c) Pune (d) Lucknow
24. Recently, Community-driven launchpad, _____ which supports interoperability of initial DEX offerings (IDO), has launched the IDO of Nasdex in India.
 (a) Super (b) Starter (c) Flower (d) Unique
25. Recently, A new version of the Akash Missile, Akash Prime was successfully flight tested from Integrated Test Range, _____.
 (a) Paradip (b) Chandipur (c) Dehradun (d) Vihakhapatnam
26. Recently, which of the following Payments Banks has forged a tie-up with Ria Money Transfer, a cross-border money transfer firm and a business segment of Euronet Worldwide, to help its 333 million customers receive money from their relatives abroad?
 (a) Paytm (b) Jio (c) Airtel (d) IPPB

27. Recently, The AIIMS _____ has received funding from the ICMR to establish a satellite brain bank, a “first of its kind” in the eastern region that will boost research in neurosciences.
 (a) Bhubaneswar (b) Guwahati (c) Kolkata (d) Shillong
28. Which of the following countries engineers created the “smallest-ever human-made flying structure”, which is about the size of a grain of sand and does not require an engine or a motor?
 (a) Germany (b) France (c) USA (d) Canada
29. Name the Indian tennis player who won the doubles title at the Ostrava Open with her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang.
 (a) Manisha Jha (b) Sania Mirza (c) Alka Tripathi (d) Kavita Hitesh
30. International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction is celebrated on:
 (a) 24 September (b) 26 September (c) 28 September (d) 29 September
31. The UN Climate Change Conference, or COP26, is scheduled to be held in _____.
 (a) Ireland (b) Sweden (c) Norway (d) Scotland
32. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated CIPET: Institute of Petrochemicals Technology, _____ via video conferencing.
 (a) Jaipur (b) Bhubaneswar (c) Patna (d) Shillong
33. Which of the following countries President Kais Saied has appointed Najla Bouden Romdhan as the first female Prime Minister in the Arab world?
 (a) Oman (b) Jordan (c) Kuwait (d) Tunisia
34. Who among the following has won the governing party leadership election and is set to be the next prime minister of Japan?
 (a) Sanae Takaichi (b) Fumio Kishida (c) Seiko Noda (d) Yoshihide Suga
35. According to a study by property consultant Knight Frank, which is the greenest city for real estate in India?
 (a) Kolkata (b) Hyderabad (c) Bengaluru (d) Delhi
36. Which of the following has recently approved the frameworks for gold exchange and Social Stock Exchange?
 (a) Reserve Bank of Indian (b) Indian Bullion Index
 (c) Securities Exchange Board of India (d) Ministry of Finance
37. Which of the following states has become first state in India to begin organised cultivation of true dalchini?
 (a) Karnataka (b) Kerala (c) Uttarakhand (d) Himachal Pradesh
38. Recently, Delhi-based environmental organisation Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE) has received the 2021 Right Livelihood Award. The award is known as _____ alternative Nobel Prize.
 (a) Norway’s (b) Finland’s (c) Icelans’s (d) Sweden’s
39. Recently, Researchers during a recent study made a surprise discovery about how immune _____ cells are maintained, which could have implications for drugs in development for cancer treatment.
 (a) “merital” (b) “nuptial” (c) “sentinel” (d) “alimantal”
40. World Heart Day is being observed and celebrated annually on _____.
 (a) September 21 (b) September 23 (c) September 26 (d) September 29
41. Which of the following has recently become the first international destination to obtain the carbon neutral certificate?
 (a) Taj Mahal (b) Machu Picchu (c) Statue of Liberty (d) Colosseum

42. According to a report by IIFL-Hurun India's top 10 rich list, Name the Indian-American entrepreneur and the CEO-founder of cloud security company Zscaler, who is the tenth richest Indian.
 (a) Deepak Bharadwaj (b) Ajeet Bajaj (c) Jay Chaudhry (d) Maheep Luthra
43. Recently, Indel Money, a non-banking finance company (NBFC) pioneering in gold loans, has entered into a first-of-its-kind conventional gold loan co-lending partnership with _____ to offer gold loans at competitive rates to a bigger and diverse segment of borrowers.
 (a) Bandhan Bank (b) IDFC First Bank (c) IndusInd Bank (d) Airtel Payment Bank
44. Which of the following two European countries announced a defence deal worth around €3 billion (\$3.5 billion) recently?
 (a) France and Italy (b) France and Greece (c) Portugal and UK (d) Iceland and Ireland
45. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched a month-long Clean India Programme from _____ as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
 (a) Prayagraj (b) Patna (c) New Delhi (d) Hyderabad
46. Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry organised _____ Programme in the honour of senior citizens on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons in New Delhi.
 (a) Vayo Naman (b) Vayo Pranam (c) Vayo Samman (d) Vayo Aadar
47. Recently, Maharashtra Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray informed that state war memorial-cum-museum will be set up in _____.
 (a) Solapur (b) Pune (c) Nagpur (d) Mumbai
48. Recently, Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched _____ a digital skills programme to enhance the employability of youth by imparting digital skills.
 (a) DigiSaksham (b) DigiSakshar (c) DigiCapable (d) DigiSudhar
49. Recently, which of the following forts becomes India's 1st Six Senses hotel?
 (a) Neemrana Fort (b) Barwara Fort (c) Jahaz Mahal (d) Jaisalmer Fort
50. The World's First 'Jumanji - The Adventure' Theme Park is to be opened in:
 (a) France (b) Italy (c) Germany (d) Portugal
51. Recently, World's largest Khadi national flag was installed at _____ on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
 (a) Leh in Ladakh (b) Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh
 (c) Nagpur in Maharashtra (d) Rajkot in Gujarat
52. The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the first public statue in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep — that of _____.
 (a) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (b) Mahatma Gandhi
 (c) Subhash Chandra Bose (d) Bhagat Singh
53. Which is first Indian city to commit to UN pledge that strives for efficient green energy?
 (a) Kolkata's New Town (b) Mumbai's Hiranandani
 (c) Ahmadabad's Green City (d) Bhopal's Fun City
54. Which of the following cities will soon become the first Indian city to use ropeway services in public transportation?
 (a) Prayagraj (b) Haridwar (c) Shimla (d) Varanasi
55. Which is first Indian state to launch an electricity generation project that uses cow dung as fuel at a farmers' event to mark Gandhi Jayanti?
 (a) Jharkhand (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Haryana (d) Punjab

56. Recently, On the occasion of the 152 birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the renovated Gandhi Museum was inaugurated at the historic Gandhi Ashram Trust at _____ in Bangladesh.
 (a) Dhaka (b) Noakhali (c) Chhittagong (d) Mirpur
57. Which of the following companies has started exploration in Bangladesh, becoming the first Indian entity to hunt for oil and gas in that country?
 (a) BHEL Videsh Ltd (b) ONGC Videsh Ltd (c) GAIL Videsh Ltd (d) OIL Videsh Ltd
58. Recently, Botlab Dynamics, a start-up incubated at _____ and the Drone Federation of India, put up the country's first drone display.
 (a) IIT-Bombay (b) IIT-Delhi (c) IIT-Hyderabad (d) IIT-Bombay
59. The World Maritime Day is celebrated on:
 (a) 21 September (b) 24 September (c) 27 September (d) 30 September
60. Who among the following has won a silver medal at International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship in Lima, Peru?
 (a) Heena Siddhu (b) Tanya Shekhon (c) Geeta Yadav (d) Ganemat Sekhon
61. The 8th Edition of India – Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise _____ is being conducted in Sri Lanka from 4th to 15th of October this year.
 (a) 'Saathi Shakti' (b) 'Maitrayi Shakti' (c) 'Mitra Shakti' (d) 'Sahayata'
62. Which of the following in a joint effort with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Indian Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), UNICEF and Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) launched the State Nutrition Profiles for 19 States and Union Territories?
 (a) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (b) Ministry of Finance
 (c) NITI Aayog (d) National Family Survey of India
63. Recently, The Election Commission has freeze poll symbol of which of the following political parties?
 (a) Lok Janshakti Party (b) Shiv Sena (c) Janta Dal United (d) Janta Dal Secular
64. Recently, The Nation pays homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his _____ birth anniversary.
 (a) 129th (b) 138th (c) 152nd (d) 167th
65. Recently, On Ligurian coast of which country biologists and environmentalists are working to tackle the effects of climate change in the Mediterranean with help from a so-called "Smart Bay"?
 (a) France (b) Portugal (c) Italy (d) Greece
66. Recently, the Middle East's first ever World Fair opened in:
 (a) Abu Dhabi (b) Dubai (c) Sharjah (d) Masdar
67. In a move to accelerate reforestation across the country, _____ India's first aerial seeding campaign using the Seedcopter drone was launched by Marut Drones.
 (a) Green (b) Hara Bhara (c) Bharpoor (d) Harit Bharat
68. In a historic moment in women's cricket, who among the following became first Indian woman to score a Test hundred on Australian soil recently?
 (a) Mithali Raj (b) Smriti Mandhana (c) Deepti Sharma (d) Tanya Bhatia
69. Who among the following has become the first Indian female actress to receive 10 Years UAE golden visa?
 (a) Deepika Padukone (b) Alia Bhatt (c) Urvashi Rautela (d) Huma Qureshi
70. The Jungle Nama is a book written by _____.
 (a) Amitav Ghosh (b) Chetan Bhagat (c) Arundhati Roy (d) Ruskin Bond

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. **b** Naga cucumbers are juicy, soft and sweet and is grown completely organically.
2. **b** Varanasi will soon become the first Indian city to use the ropeway services in the public transportation. About 220 cable cars will be available between Cantt railway station (Varanasi Junction) and Godowlia.
3. **a** The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, has named Accra (Ghana) as UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023, following the evaluation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee.
4. **c** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM) via video-conferencing.
5. **b** Iceland looks set to make history by becoming the first European country to elect a female majority to parliament.
6. **b** State-run oil refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) partnered with State Bank of India (SBI) Cards to launch the BPCL SBI Co-branded RuPay contactless credit card.
7. **d** India has bagged the 14th spot and is up from the 10-year global rank of 82.
8. **a** The Uttarakhand Forest Department dedicated the state's first Palmetum and the biggest one in North India, to the people in the Haldwani area of Nainital district.
9. **b** India has emerged as the 4th largest exporter of Marine products in the world.
10. **c** Odisha will host the junior men's World Cup Hockey in coming November. Chief minister Naveen Patnaik announced this in capital Bhubaneswar.
11. **b** Sojat Mehndi from Rajasthan has received the geographical indication (GI) tag from the government
12. **b** The world's highest electric vehicle charging station was inaugurated in Kaza, Lahaul Spiti.
13. **a** Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy Dr. L. Murugan was elected unopposed to the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Madhya Pradesh.
14. **a** India has emerged as Dubai's second biggest trading partner after China with the overall volume touching 38.5 billion dirham in the first half of 2021.
15. **d** Union Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that Centre has transformed 29 labour laws with four labour codes.
16. **b** Dinesh Shahra, has received Globoil India Lifetime Achievement Award 2021 for his exemplary contribution to the Edible Oil Industry
17. **d** The Ministry of Tourism is organized an event to celebrate "World Tourism Day 2021" on 27th September 2021 in New Delhi, which has been designated by the UNWTO as a day to focus on "Tourism for Inclusive Growth". Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla will be chief guest of the event.
18. **d** India captain Virat Kohli reached a coveted milestone of 10,000-run mark in all forms of T20 cricket (international, domestic and franchise) during his side Royal Challengers Bangalore's IPL match against Mumbai Indians.
19. **d** On 17 November 2015, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared 28 September as International Day for Universal Access to Information.

- 20. b** A book has titled “The Three Khans: And the Emergence of New India” authored by Kaveree Bamzai.
- 21. d** The traditional Judima wine of the Dimasa tribals of Assam and Nagaland has become the first beverage from northeast India to be awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- 22. a** Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the “AmritGrand Challenge Program” titled “जन्मCARE” to identify 75 Start-Up Innovations in Telemedicine, Digital Health, mHealth with BIG Data, AI, Block Chain and other technologies.
- 23. c** UK’s Wellington College to open schools in India, 1st campus to come up in Pune.
- 24. b** Community-driven launchpad, Starter, which supports interoperability of initial DEX offerings (IDO), has launched the IDO of Nasdex in India.
- 25. b** A new version of the Akash Missile, Akash Prime was successfully flight tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.
- 26. a** Paytm Payments Bank has forged a tie-up with Ria Money Transfer, a cross-border money transfer firm and a business segment of Euronet Worldwide, to help its 333 million customers receive money from their relatives abroad.
- 27. a** The AIIMS-Bhubaneswar has received funding from the ICMR to establish a satellite brain bank, a “first of its kind” in the eastern region that will boost research in neurosciences.
- 28. c** Engineers from Illinois’ Northwestern University have created an electronic microchip or “microflier” with flight capabilities, which can help monitor air pollution levels and airborne diseases. The “smallest-ever human-made flying structure”, which is about the size of a grain of sand, does not require an engine or a motor.
- 29. b** India’s Tennis veteran, Sania Mirza won the doubles title at the Ostrava Open with her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang.
- 30. d** International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction is observed on 29 September.
- 31. d** The UN Climate Change Conference, or COP26, is scheduled to be held between October 31 and November 12 in Scotland.
- 32. a** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated CIPET: Institute of Petrochemicals Technology, Jaipur via video conferencing.
- 33. d** Tunisian President Kais Saied has appointed Najla Bouden Romdhan as the first female prime minister in Tunisia and the Arab world, two months after he sacked the previous government and seized wide-ranging executive powers.
- 34. b** Japan’s former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida has won the governing party leadership election and is set to be the next prime minister.
- 35. d** Delhi is the greenest city for real estate in India but ranks 63rd globally, according to a study by property consultant Knight Frank.
- 36. c** Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the frameworks for gold exchange and Social Stock Exchange.
- 37. d** Himachal Pradesh becomes first state in India to begin organised cultivation of true dalchini.

- 38. d** Delhi-based environmental organisation Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE) has received the 2021 Right Livelihood Award for its “grassroots approach of empowering vulnerable communities to protect their livelihoods and claim their right to a clean environment.” The award is known as Sweden’s alternative Nobel Prize.
- 39. c** Researchers during a recent study made a surprise discovery about how immune “sentinel” cells are maintained, which could have implications for drugs in development for cancer treatment.
- 40. d** World Heart Day is being observed and celebrated annually on September 29.
- 41. b** Machu Picchu has become the first international destination to obtain the carbon neutral certificate.
- 42. c** Indian-American entrepreneur and the CEO-founder of cloud security company Zscaler, Jay Chaudhry is tenth richest Indian, according to a report by IIFL-Hurun India’s top 10 rich list.
- 43. c** Indel Money, a non-banking finance company (NBFC) pioneering in gold loans, has entered into a first-of-its-kind conventional gold loan co-lending partnership with IndusInd Bank to offer gold loans at competitive rates to a bigger and diverse segment of borrowers.
- 44. b** France and Greece announced a defence deal worth around €3 billion (\$3.5 billion), including Athens’ decision to buy three French warships, as part of a strategy to boost its defence capacities in the Eastern Mediterranean amid recurring tensions with Turkey, a long-time foe.
- 45. a** Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur will launch a month-long Clean India Programme from Prayagraj as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- 46. a** Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry organised ‘Vayo Naman’ Programme in the honour of senior citizens on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons in New Delhi.
- 47. d** Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said a state war memorial-cum-museum will be set up in Mumbai, showcasing glorious achievements of the Indian armed forces.
- 48. a** Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched DigiSaksham - a digital skills programme to enhance the employability of youth by imparting digital skills.
- 49. b** Ranthambore’s 700-year-old Barwara Fort becomes India’s 1st Six Senses hotel.
- 50. b** Italy is all set to welcome cinephiles and all those who love thrill and adventure to the world’s first theme park ride based on the much-loved Jumanji franchise.
- 51. a** World’s largest Khadi national flag was installed at Leh in Ladakh on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
- 52. b** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will unveil the first public statue in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep — that of Mahatma Gandhi.
- 53. a** Kolkata’s New Town, first Indian city to commit to UN pledge, strives for efficient green energy.
- 54. d** Varanasi, the PM Modi’s parliamentary constituency, will soon become the first Indian city to use ropeway services in public transportation.
- 55. b** Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel launched an electricity generation project that uses cow dung as fuel at a farmers’ event to mark Gandhi Jayanti.
- 56. b** On the occasion of the 152 birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the renovated Gandhi Museum was inaugurated at the historic Gandhi Ashram Trust at Noakhali in Bangladesh.

- 57. b** ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) has started exploration in Bangladesh, becoming the first Indian entity to hunt for oil and gas in that country.
- 58. b** Botlab Dynamics, a start-up incubated at IIT-Delhi and the Drone Federation of India, put up the country's first drone display.
- 59. d** The IMO headquarters will be lit blue on World Maritime Day, 30 September 2021, as part of efforts to highlight seafarers and their core role in shipping.
- 60. d** Rising Women's Skeet talent Ganemat Sekhon has won a silver medal at International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship in Lima, Peru.
- 61. c** The 8th Edition of India – Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'Mitra Shakti' is being conducted in Sri Lanka from 4th to 15th of October this year.
- 62. c** NITI Aayog, in a joint effort with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Indian Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), UNICEF and Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) launched the State Nutrition Profiles for 19 States and Union Territories.
- 63. a** The Election Commission has frozen Lok Janshakti Party LJP poll symbol till dispute between Chirag Paswan and Pashupati Paras factions is resolved.
- 64. c** The Nation pays homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 152nd birth anniversary.
- 65. c** On Italy's Ligurian coast, biologists and environmentalists are working to tackle the effects of climate change in the Mediterranean with help from a so-called "Smart Bay".
- 66. b** After eight years of planning and billions of dollars in spending, the Middle East's first ever World Fair opened in Dubai, with hopes the months-long extravaganza draws both visitors and global attention to this desert-turned-dreamscape.
- 67. b** In a move to accelerate reforestation across the country, Hara Bhara, India's first aerial seeding campaign using the Seedcopter drone was launched by Marut Drones
- 68. b** In a historic moment in women's cricket, Smriti Mandhana became first Indian woman to score a Test hundred on Australian soil.
- 69. c** Urvashi Rautela Becomes First Indian Female Actress to receive 10 Years UAE Golden Visa
- 70. a** Jungle Nama is a book written by Amitav Ghosh.